THE COMING OF SHIWAN KHAN!
THE Shadow STRIKES!™
SHADOW STRIKES
8
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FIREWORKS PART ONE
EDUARDO BARRETO

WITH JOHNNY DC

With the release of ARKHAM ASYLUM, creators **Grant Morrison** and **Dave McKean** stormed North America for a book-signing tour that found them canvassing 12 stores, one coast after another, in just a few short weeks. The trip was deemed a success by both men, who ended their journey in New York at the DC offices. Along the way, though, they had some interesting experiences . . . after visiting Silver Snail in Toronto, the duo was joined for dinner by a crew including THE PRISONER co-writer **Mark Askwith** and TIME MASTER's **Bob Wayne**. At one point, during a lull in the conversation, people looked up and were astonished to see Grant and Dave staring back at them from the bar's television set, which was set on Canada's MuchMusic Network . . . The United Kingdom's team were joined at various stores by other creators including **James D. Hudnall**, writer of THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF LEX LUTHOR (and some new projects we can't quite discuss yet, but trust us, they'll be worth waiting for) . . . **Art Young**, Grant's new editor on DOOM PATROL, and DC Marketing and Promotions Associate **Tammy Brown** accompanied the pair on the West Coast swing . . .

In New York, Dave took some time out to visit the Flushing offices where our coloring computers are currently housed. Prior to leaving England, Dave had completed drawing HELLBLAZER #27, from a **Neil Gaiman** script, and went to supervise the coloring. Dave was so taken with the computer systems that he whipped through the book in record time, learning the color computer as he went along. Finished with the job, he decided the time had come to buy himself a computer for an expansion of his range.

Grant, meanwhile, finally met his DOOM PATROL collaborator, penciller **Richard Case**, allowing them to plan for a twisted future for the much talked about team. They headed out for a lunch joined by Dave, Art Young, Richard's wife **Colleen** and their former editor, **Bob Greenberger** . . . The series promises to get even more odd in months to come, including a four-parter that deals once again with the comatose Rhea Jones, a.k.a. Lodestone . . .

At much the same time, **Brian Augustyn** and **Mike Mignola** winged their way far west, making a tour of Hawaii to sign copies of the acclaimed GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT . . . Before they returned, freelancers from the 'MAZING MAN SPECIAL to TEMPUS FUGITIVE were asked about the *next* available Hawaiian tour . . .

Mike W. Barr made his annual pilgrimage to New York in December to check in with his editors. He met extensively with **Jonathan Peterson**, discussing future plans for DOC SAVAGE. It looks like the pages of the calendar will be turning backward as the series continues to reveal adventures from Doc's heyday of the 1940s . . . He also met with **Denny O'Neil** to work on furthering plans for a whole host of Bat-projects that will begin to appear late this year—details will follow, of course . . . Unfortunately, Mike's trip had him miss both the East and West Coast DC Christmas parties. The East Coast bash was held at the swank new club Octagon and saw freelancers come from several states for the festivities. It was hailed by most to be one of the best DC parties in recent memory. As always, business was mixed with pleasure and some new projects or assignments came from the event, such as **Ricardo Villagran** making his triumphant return to DC after a year's absence to ink **Pat Broderick's** issues of GREEN LANTERN, which makes its debut in just a few months . . .

The West Coast party was also declared a success by its participants. **Dick Giordano** and **Pat Bastienne** went West to host the affair. They spent some time meeting with writers and artists including TIME MASTER's **Art Thibert**, DETECTIVE's **Steve Mitchell, Howard Chaykin** (who has lots cooking with us, including a five-part LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT tale he is co-writing with **John Moore**), BATMAN's **Marv Wolfman** and others . . . Dick and Pat also paid a visit to the Walt Disney lot to check in with **Len Wein**, who was recently named Editor-in-Chief of the forthcoming Disney Comics line. Congratulations, Len!

The holidays have forced a number of creative changes to help out around the line-up, including **Romeo Tanghal** stepping in to ink WONDER WOMAN #41-43, over **Chris Marrinan** . . . **Carlos Garzon** has pitched in to ink THE QUESTION #34 and STARMAN #20 . . . **Chris Sprouse** steps in to pencil JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #13 and newcomer **Linda Medley** will pencil #14 and the JLE ANNUAL, with the latter being inked by **Jose Marzan Jr.** . . . **Dave Hoover** has pencilled HAWK & DOVE #13 . . . **Jeff Albrecht** inks **Jim Fern** on DR. FATE #16 . . . **Gordon Purcell** has stepped in to pencil STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION #7-8 and then moves on to pencil the ST:TNG ANNUAL . . . **Denis Rodier** will ink **Paris Cullins's** pencils on NEW GODS #14 while **Rick Hoberg** has pencilled NG #16 . . . **Rick Magyar** will ink ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS for four issues, starting with AD&D #17 . . . **Chris Sprouse** will also pencil a portion of LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #8, which is an important issue in terms of the Legion's history . . . With BATMAN about to go bi-weekly for the spring-summer, **Mark Bright** has been asked to pencil a few issues, starting with BATMAN #449 . . . Finally, the busy Jose Marzan Jr. will become the new inker on THE FLASH beginning with issue #38, as **Larry Mahlstedt** moves on to new projects to be announced . . .

Tom and Mary Bierbaum visited New York in December, talking about their extensive and wide-ranging ideas for the LEGION with their collaborator, plotter/penciller **Keith Giffen** . . . The plans, should they all come to fruition, will make 1990 a very interesting year for the LEGION as their revised continuity takes a firm grip on the rest of the DC Universe—ominous, eh?

More . . . next month!

—Johnny DC

DC LIST

THIS WEEK

ATLANTIS CHRONICLES 2
Five years ago Atlantis sunk beneath the seas; now King Orin must save his people from madness and extinction and then deal with his brother! ◆▶

THE SHADOW STRIKES! 8
1935. San Francisco's Chinatown. And the first meeting between The Shadow and his arch nemesis—Shiwan Khan! ■▶

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 17
The legacy of Kyriani's past comes back to haunt her when a wizard claims that only she can stop a menace. ■▶

DR. FATE 16
Linda remembers Eric in a flashback to the day of the novice Doctor Fate. ■▶

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 6
Gothic by Grant Morrison and Klaus Janson begins here, as Mr. Whisper, the scourge of Gotham's underworld *before* Batman, returns. ◆▶

NEW GODS 15
Orion comes face to face with a serial killer. No stranger to bloodshed, can even Orion fathom the killer's motivations? ■▶

GREEN ARROW 31
Oliver Queen enters the drug world . . . and makes his closest brush ever with death. Can even the Black Canary save him? ■▶▲

CAPTAIN ATOM 40
The Ghost kidnaps Babylon and Allard . . . but that's only the first step in a plan that will create the most destructive being the world has ever known. ●

DETECTIVE COMICS 613
To prevent mass slaughter, The Batman must find the fiend who is poisoning Gotham City. Plus, Bruce Wayne has a date with . . . Vicki Vale. ●

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE 13
Insanity ensues as the Paris JLI Embassy is invaded by the one-eyed cat from heck. ●

SUICIDE SQUAD 48
The Phoenix Gambit kicks off a four-part rebirth for the Squad as Batman needs Amanda Waller's help. Plus: a bind-in poster of the new Squad. ●

ACTION COMICS 652
Ma and Pa Kent come to Metropolis for the first time . . . but it's not a pleasure trip. Can even the shock of their visit bring Superman back from his Kryptonian ways? ●

THE QUESTION 36
Everything is wrapped up in this final issue as The Question and Myra deal with what's left of Hub City and their relationship. ◆▶▲

LEGEND

● Standard Format	★ Prestige Format
■ New Format	□ Graphic Novel
◆ Deluxe Format	◫ Collected Edition
▶ Available at Select Outlets	▲ Suggested for Mature Readers

SHANGHAI. MAY, 1935.
"CHINA IS IN A RESTIVE MOOD AGAIN TONIGHT."
"THE JAPANESE RESUME THEIR MANEUVERS..."
"... THE BRITISH SEEM MORE TESTY THAN USUAL..."
NO CHINESE EUROPEAN RESIDENTS ONLY
...THERE ARE ANGRY WHISPERS IN THE WIND,
AND SUCH A SWEET WIND IT IS. QUICKLY, NOW--TO THE WHANG-POO RIVER!
"YES, HERE. THE VESSEL OF OUR RELUCTANT CAPTAIN..."

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...TAKE ME ABOARD!
...AND LET US BE PREPARED FOR THE CAPTAIN'S STIFF-BACKED RESISTANCE.
GET OFF THIS VESSEL! I'VE TOLD YOU I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
BUT CAPTAIN, I ASSUMED YOU WERE JOKING. HOW CAN YOU REFUSE ME?
FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SKIPPERING YOUR SHIP FOR ONE VOYAGE, I'LL PAY YOU ENOUGH FOR A MONTH OF HIGH LIVING ON SHORE!
I MAY BE A SMUGGLER, BUT I'M STILL A SAILOR.
NO MONEY CAN BUY MY DUTY TO THIS VESSEL AND HER CREW.
I SEE THAT I HAVE MIS-JUDGED YOUR CHARACTER, CAPTAIN.
I AM SORRY THAT THIS HAS OCCURRED.

WHAT IS THIS?
HOLD ON HEEE..
...UKKK:
KRAAK
THIS SHIP WILL FOLLOW ITS INTENDED COURSE. IT WILL CAST OFF IMMEDIATELY.
I'M SURE THE CREW WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE CHANGE IN COMMAND...
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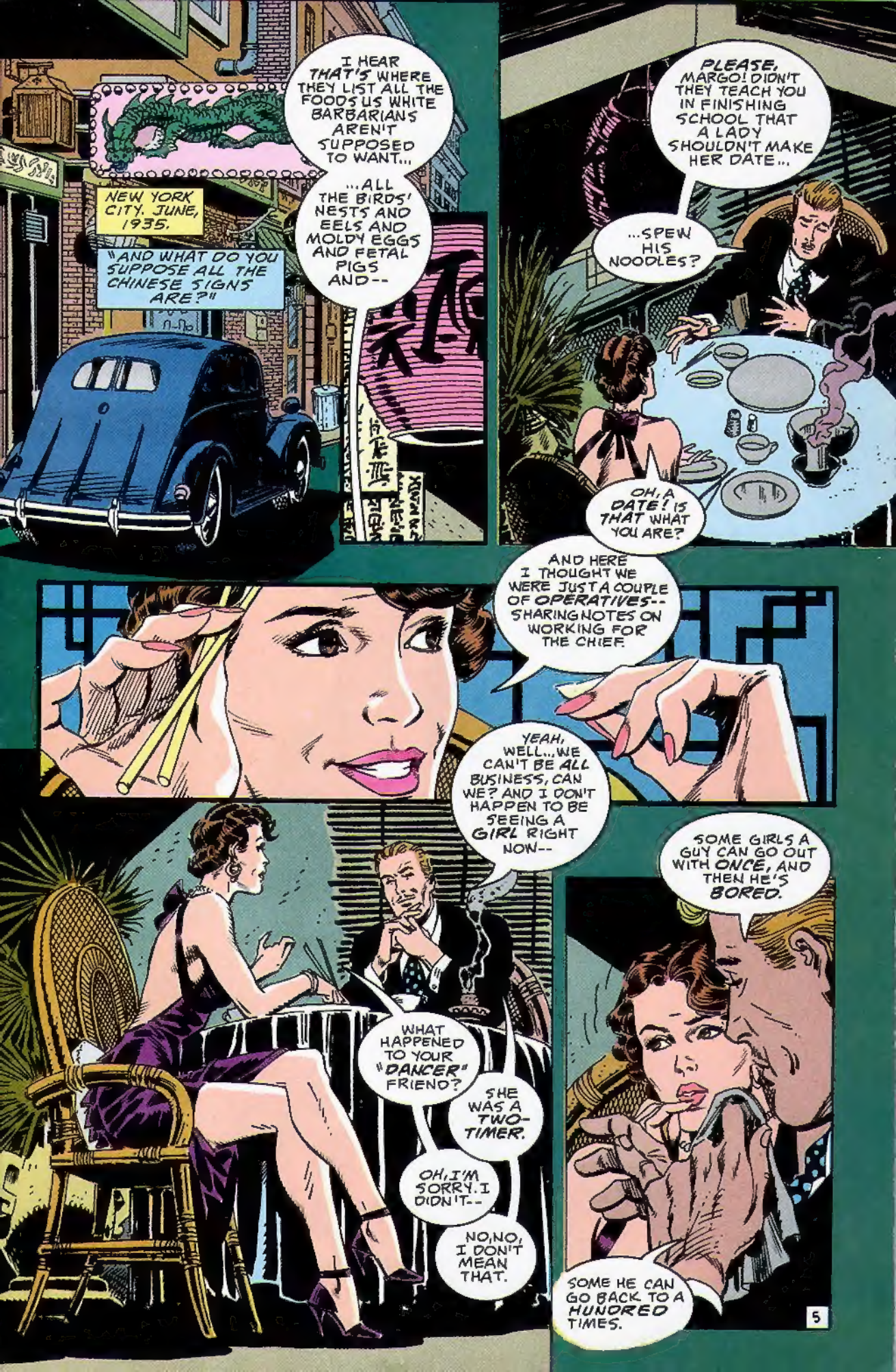
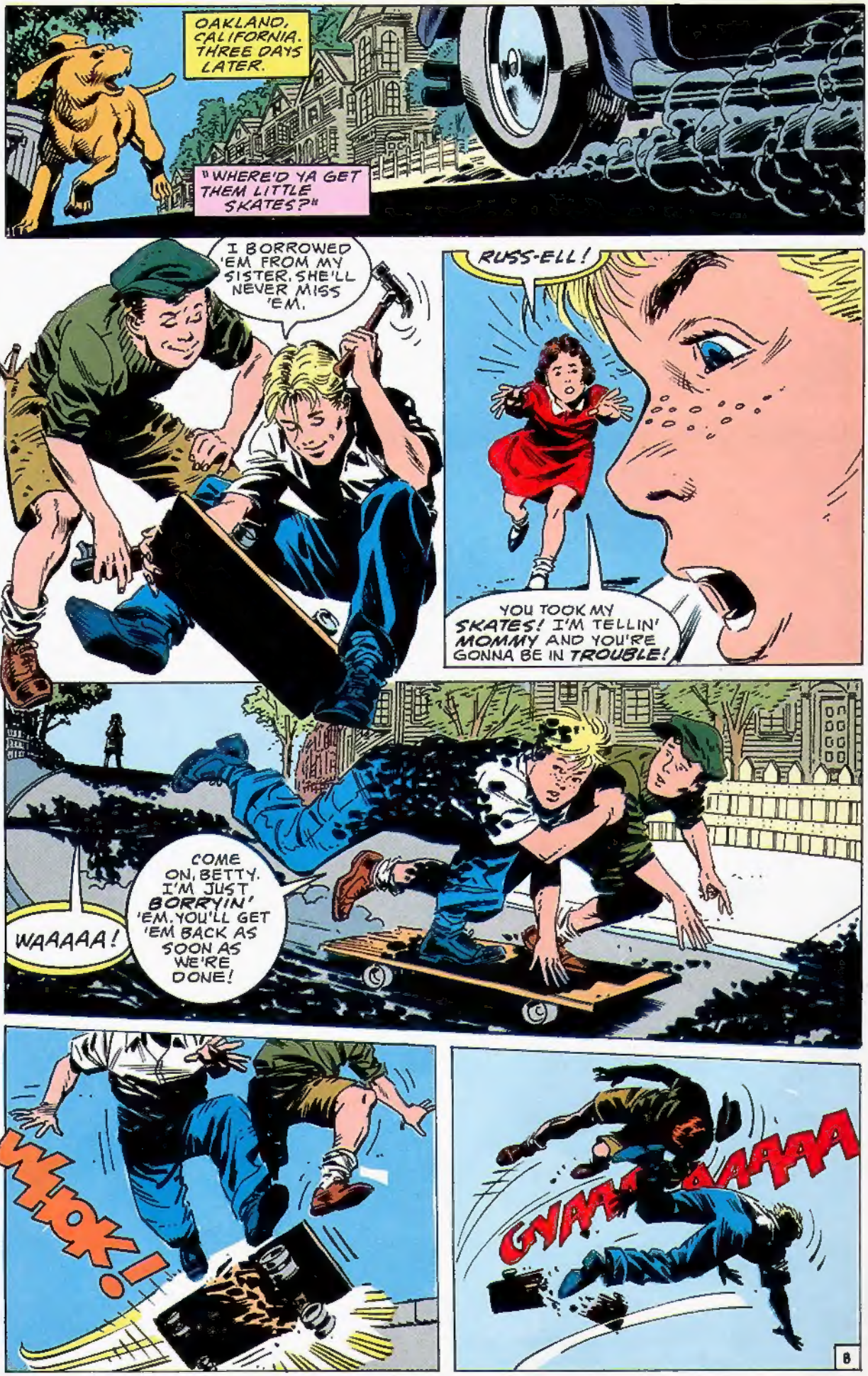
...ONCE THEY REALIZE WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EAST CHINA SEA.
AND WELL ON OUR WAY TO SAN FRANCISCO.
FIREWORKS
PART ONE
FROM THE SHADOW'S PRIVATE ANNALS; AS TOLD TO:
GERARD JONES
WRITER
EDUARDO BARRETO
ARTIST
ROD LAWORKMAN
LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORIST
BRIAN AUGUSTYN
EDITOR
EDUARDO BARRETO
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY WALTER GIBSON

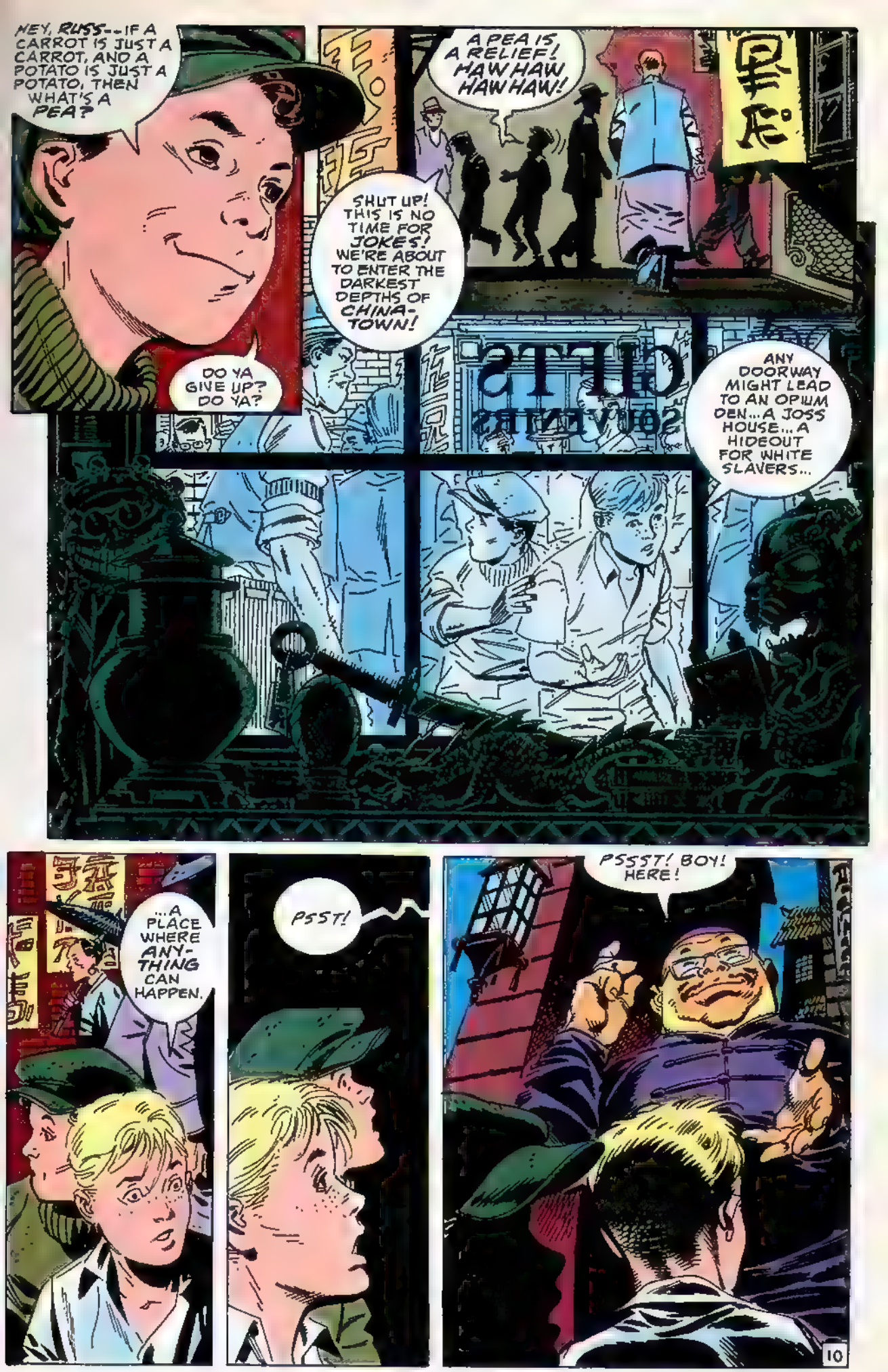

I HEAR THAT'S WHERE THEY LIST ALL THE FOODS US WHITE BARBARIANS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO WANT...
...ALL THE BIRDS' NESTS AND EELS AND MOLDY EGGS AND FETAL PIGS AND--
NEW YORK CITY. JUNE, 1935.
"AND WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE ALL THE CHINESE SIGNS ARE?"
PLEASE, MARGO! DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU IN FINISHING SCHOOL THAT A LADY SHOULDN'T MAKE HER DATE...
...SPEW HIS NOODLES?
OH, A DATE! IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE?
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST A COUPLE OF OPERATIVES-- SHARING NOTES ON WORKING FOR THE CHIEF.
YEAH, WELL...WE CAN'T BE ALL BUSINESS, CAN WE? AND I DON'T HAPPEN TO BE SEEING A GIRL RIGHT NOW--
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR "DANCER" FRIEND?
SHE WAS A TWO-TIMER.
OH, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T--
NO, NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT.
SOME GIRLS A GUY CAN GO OUT WITH ONCE, AND THEN HE'S BORED.
SOME HE CAN GO BACK TO A HUNDRED TIMES.
5

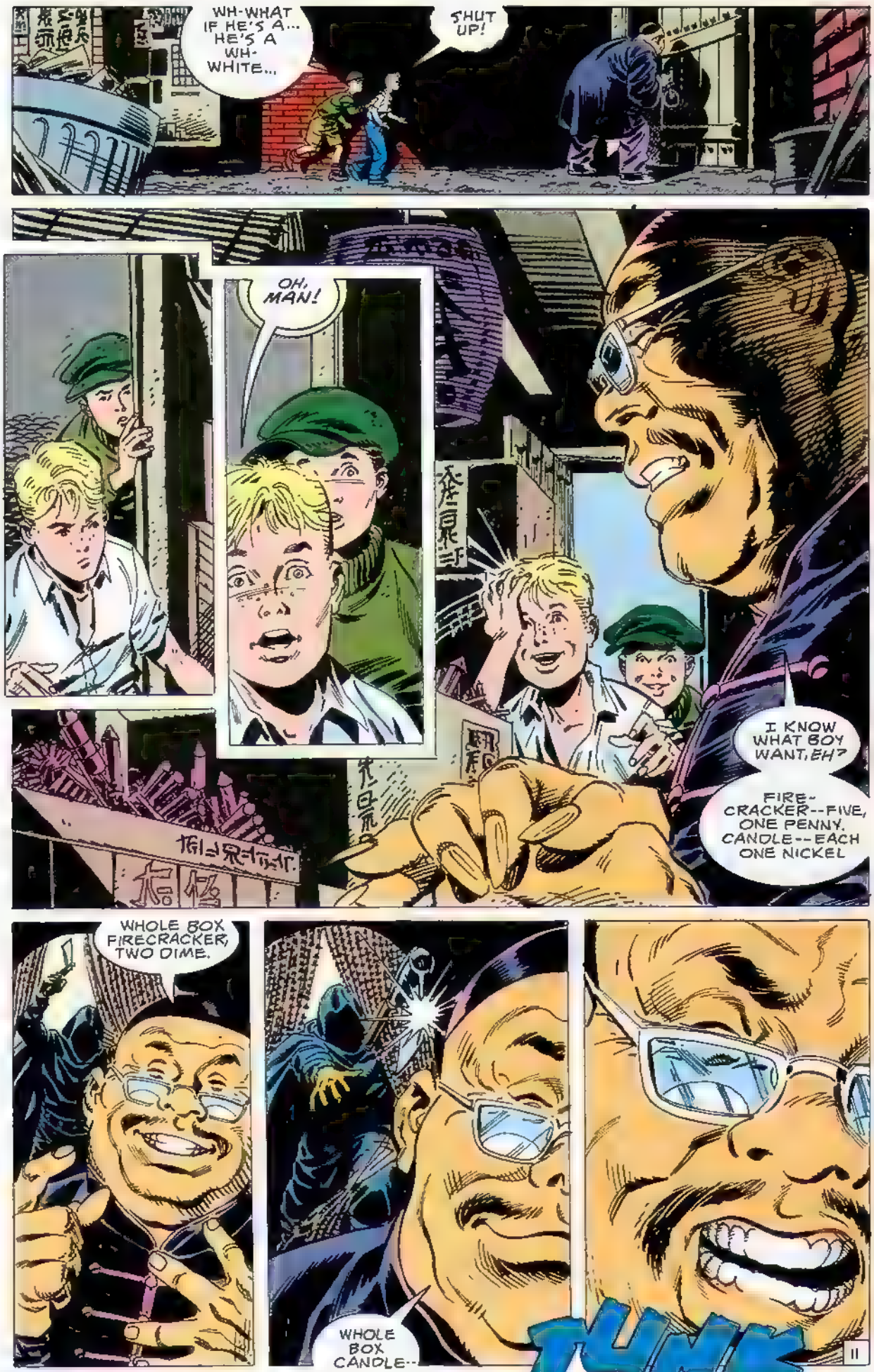
CELESTE WAS A TWO-TIMER.
PLEASE, MR. VINCENT! YOU MAKE ME BLUSH!
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT DEBUTANTE?
HUH. "JUST A FLING," SHE SAID. "I WANTED TO SEE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE WITH A MAN OF ACTION," SHE SAID.
GUESS I'LL JUST NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGURE YOU SOCIETY GIRLS.
THAT... IS WHAT YOU ARE... ISN'T IT, MARGO?
A SOCIETY GIRL?
OH, FORTUNE COOKIES! WHAT LOVELY TIMING!
DO OPEN YOURS, HARRY. WHAT ASTONISHING FATE IS IN STORE FOR YOU?
"YOU WILL TRAVEL FAR AND ENCOUNTER A FASCINATING PERSON."
WELL, I'D NEVER HAVE PREDICTED THAT. HOW ABOUT YOURS?
THAT'S ODD...

IT'S HAND-LETTERED ... IN RED INK. AND IT SAYS...
"BEWARE THE MONGOL!" ...?
NOW, WHAT COULD...
BEWARE THE MONGOL!
HARRY... THIS ISN'T A DROP OF RED INK ON THE TABLE, IS IT?
IF IT IS...
...SOMEBODY'S GOT A DAMNED LEAKY PEN!
SAY THERE-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ANSWER ME! ARE YOU--
NO, HARRY. NO...
...I'M AFRAID HE ISN'T.


OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA. THREE DAYS LATER.
"WHERE'D YA GET THEM LITTLE SKATES?"
I BORROWED 'EM FROM MY SISTER. SHE'LL NEVER MISS 'EM.
RUSS-ELL!
YOU TOOK MY SKATES! I'M TELLIN' MOMMY AND YOU'RE GONNA BE IN TROUBLE!
WAAAAA!
COME ON, BETTY. I'M JUST BORRYIN' 'EM. YOU'LL GET 'EM BACK AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE!
WHOK!
GYAAAAAAAAA

WHUFF!
OOMF!
RRRR
WELL, THAT'S THAT.
YEP, THAT'S THAT.
BWAAA
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?
THEY'RE SHOWING CALL OF THE WILD AT THE PARA-MOUNT.
I BET WE COULD BUST IN THERE.
NAW, I DID THAT TWICE ALREADY.
HEY, I BET THERE'S A NEW SPICY DETECTIVE OUT.
WHO WANTS TO READ WHEN YOU CAN DO SUMPTHIN'?
SAY, AIN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE BOUGHT SOME FIRE-WORKS?
I KNOW THIS PLACE ON EIGHTH STREET--
AW, FERGET THAT. I KNOW WHERE TO GET REAL FIRE-WORKS! ALL KINDSA STUFF THEY'RE NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO SELL!
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA BE A MAN--
"...'CAUSE IT'S ALL THE WAY OVER IN SAN FRANCISCO."

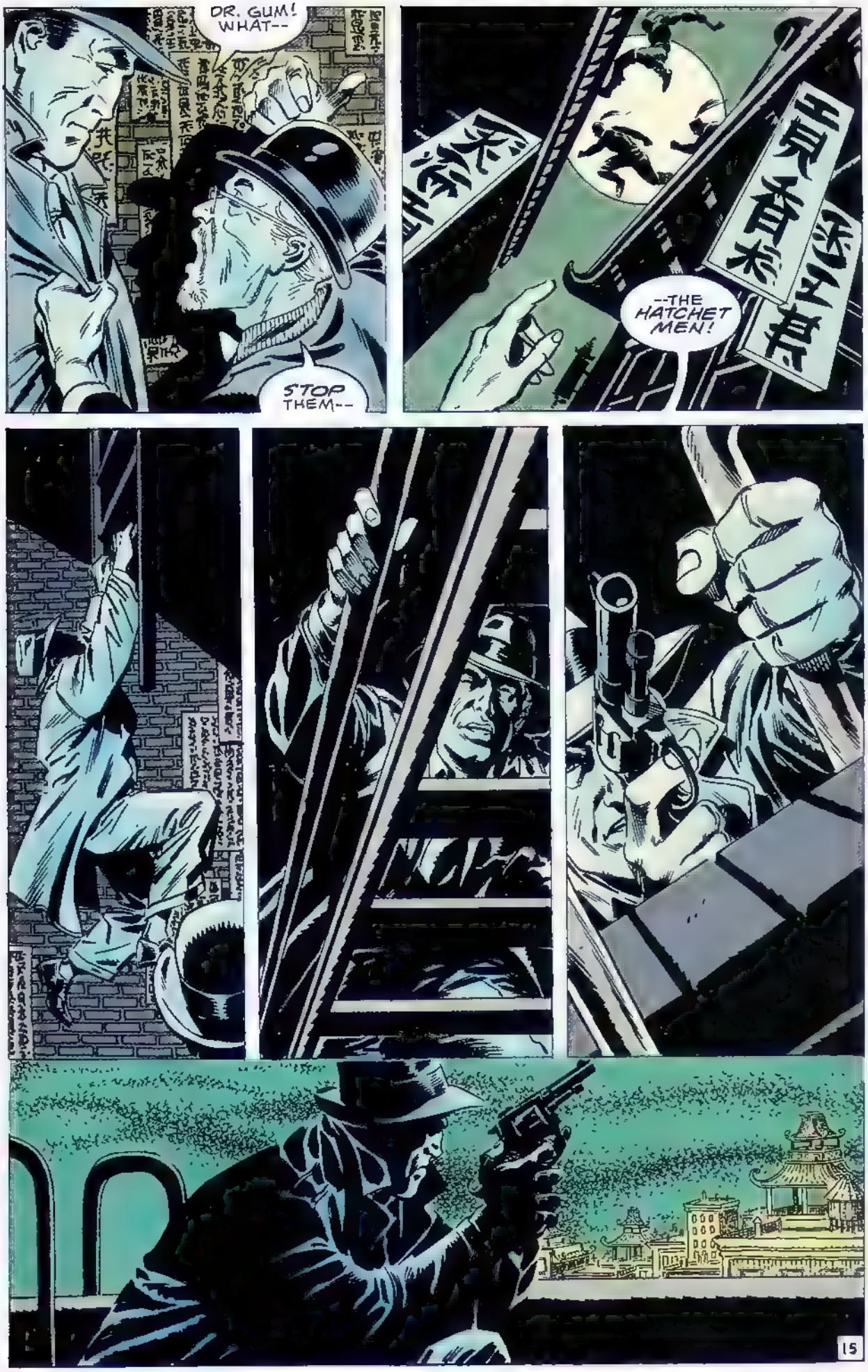

HEY, RUSS--IF A CARROT IS JUST A CARROT, AND A POTATO IS JUST A POTATO, THEN WHAT'S A PEA?
DO YA GIVE UP? DO YA?
SHUT UP! THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES! WE'RE ABOUT TO ENTER THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF CHINA-TOWN!
A PEA IS A RELIEF! HAW HAW HAW HAW!
ANY DOORWAY MIGHT LEAD TO AN OPIUM DEN... A JOSS HOUSE... A HIDEOUT FOR WHITE SLAVERS...
...A PLACE WHERE ANY-THING CAN HAPPEN.
PSST!
PSSST! BOY! HERE!
10


WH-WHAT IF HE'S A... HE'S A WH-WHITE...
SHUT UP!
OH, MAN!
I KNOW WHAT BOY WANT, EH?
FIRE-CRACKER--FIVE, ONE PENNY. CANDLE--EACH ONE NICKEL
WHOLE BOX FIRECRACKER, TWO DIME.
WHOLE BOX CANDLE--

KROMP

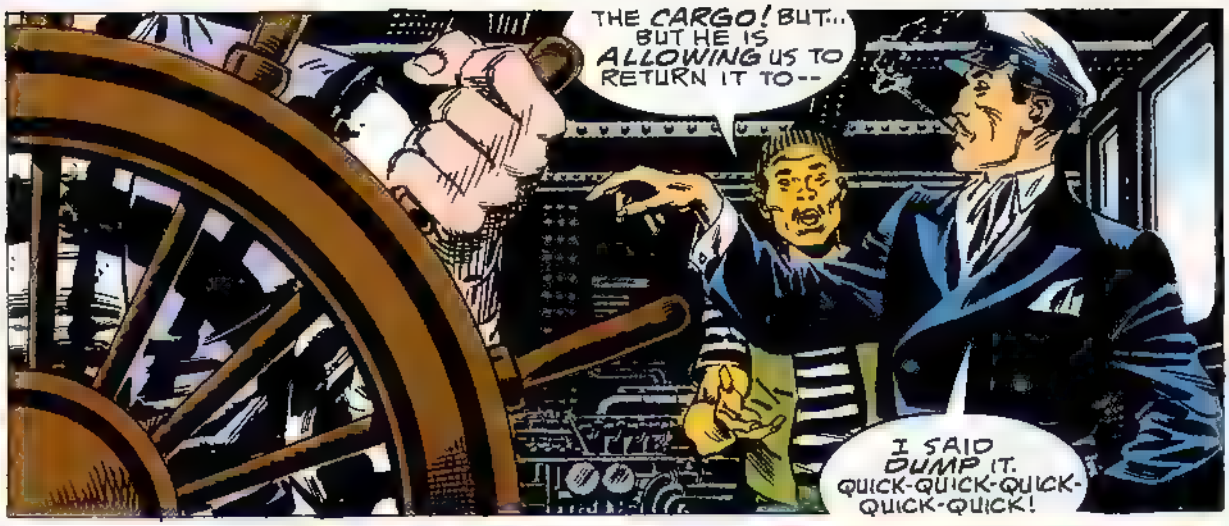
CHINATOWN
RING RING
POLICE.
INSPECTOR BANION-- TELEPHONE!
HE SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT, INSPECTOR.
YEAH, YEAH.
IT'S A MR. CRANSTON!
PUT IT IN THE OFFICE!
BANION? IT IS I!
MY CONTACTS IN NEW YORK'S CHINATOWN HAVE UNCOVERED A TRAIL OF EVIL THAT LEADS TO YOUR CITY.
WATCH FOR BLOOD AND TERROR IN THE ALLEYS. AND IF YOU FIND IT TOO GREAT FOR YOU... KNOW THAT JUSTICE IS ON ITS WAY.

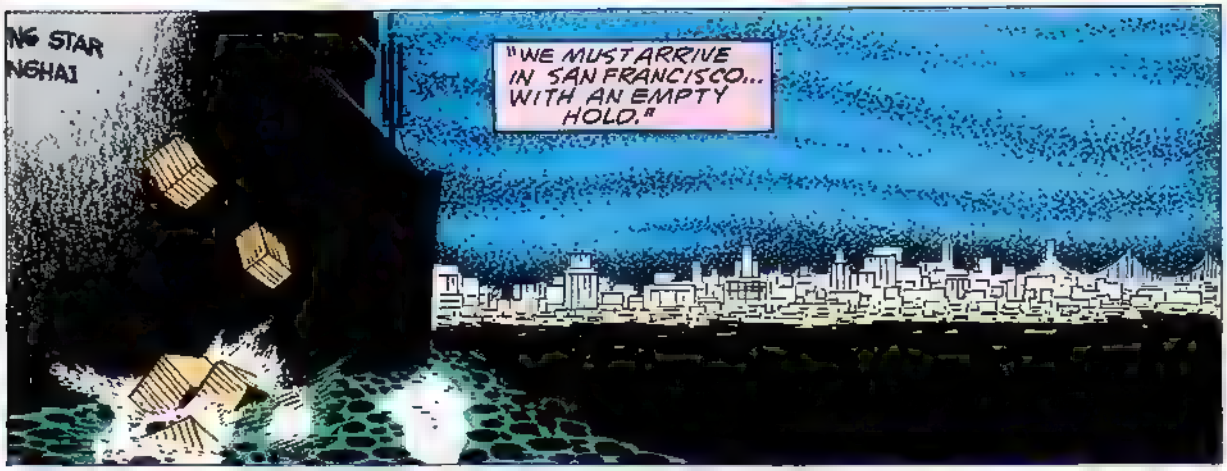
HOW'D I GET INTO THIS?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, JACK?
HUH? OH!
I THOUGHT YOUR SHIFT WAS LONG OVER.
IT'S NEVER OVER, CAP...
JUST ...A BIG CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CHINESE UPLIFT SOCIETY. LISTEN, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON DINNER TONIGHT.
"... NOT WHEN CHINATOWN'S IN TROUBLE."
SERGEANT JAKE! SERGEANT JAKE!
14


DR. GUM! WHAT--
STOP THEM--
--THE HATCHET MEN!

WHAT A GLORIOUS BRIDGE IT WILL BE.
WHEN I COME AGAIN, I MUST BRING MY POETS... TO CAST THIS TRANSIENT STEEL BEAUTY IN IMMORTAL WORDS.
THESE WESTERNERS CERTAINLY HAVE MADE STRIDES IN THESE LAST FEW CENTURIES. IF I'D WAITED MUCH LONGER--
KHAH-SHA!! GULTAG!
CUT YOUR SPEED! YOU WILL BE BOARDED!
REEEEEEEE!
NO, NO, CHAMUR. IT'S ONLY THE COAST GUARD.
"WE MUST TREAT THEM AS WE WOULD ANY HOSPITABLE HOSTS."
WE GOT A TIP YOU'D BE STEAMING IN HERE, CHINAMAN...LOADED DOWN WITH ILLEGAL FIREWORKS.
DO YOU LET US SEARCH YOUR HOLD ...OR DO WE TOW YOU IN?

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEARCH OR TOW AS YOU PLEASE, MY HOST. OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO REPAIR TO MY CABIN FOR TEA.
FOR YOU SEE, I FREELY ADMIT THE PRESENCE OF THIS PYROTECHNIC CONTRABAND IN MY HOLD.
...SO I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE AN IGNORANT FOREIGNER THIS MISUNDERSTANDING OF YOUR LAWS.
I WILL GLADLY REVERSE MY COURSE AND RETURN THESE GOODS TO SHANGHAI. BUT I MAKE ONE REQUEST.
MAKE IT A SMALL ONE.
ALLOW US TO ANCHOR OFFSHORE LONG ENOUGH TO STOCK WATER, FOOD, AND FUEL. SUPERVISE US TO SEE THAT NOTHING LEAVES THE SHIP.
SURELY YOU CANNOT BEGRUDGE ME MY CREW'S SURVIVAL?
LET HIM GAIN A BIT OF DISTANCE, BUT FOLLOW FAITHFULLY...
...GIVE HIM NO CAUSE FOR SUSPICION.
OF COURSE YOU WEREN'T. I WAS.
NOW, WHILE ALL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON OUR PROW, YOU WILL MOVE THE CREW AFT... AND BEGIN DUMPING OUR CARGO.
I SWEAR TO YOU, CAPTAIN... I SWEAR! I WAS NOT THE ONE WHO TOLD THEM WE WERE COMING!
17

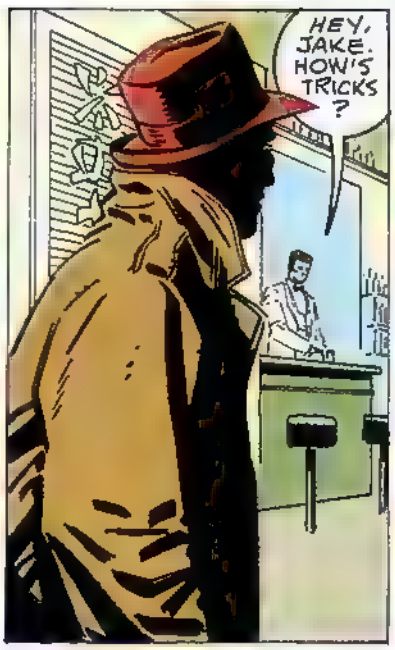

THE CARGO! BUT... BUT HE IS ALLOWING US TO RETURN IT TO--
I SAID DUMP IT. QUICK-QUICK-QUICK-QUICK-QUICK!

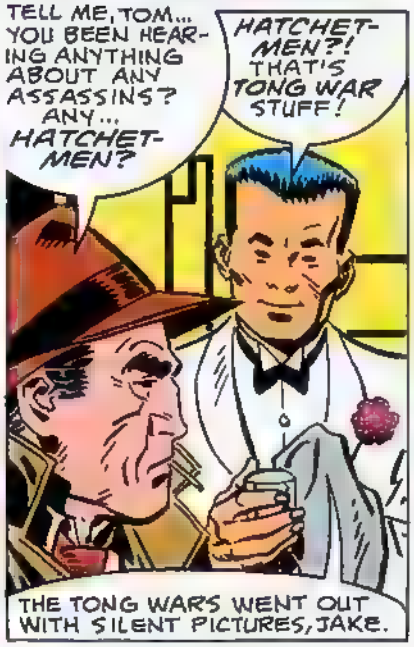

NG STAR
NGHAI
"WE MUST ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO... WITH AN EMPTY HOLD."

THAT'S IT! PULL 'ER UP!
WAIT!
HOLD IT! KID COMIN!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU MADE IT, KID! THIS IS THE LAST FERRY OF THE NIGHT!
I KN-KNOW! I D-DON'T HAVE A TICKET, BUT I'VE GOT M-M-M-MONEY!
FORGET IT, KID! JUST GET THE HECK ON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THIS LATE, ANY-WAY?
I W-WAS RUNNING FROM SOME ...SOME...

WHAT --?
AAAAAAAA
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH KIDS THESE DAYS?

:WHUFF:
WELL, DR. GUM, I CHECKED THE ROOFS FROM ONE END OF THE BLOCK TO THE--
DR. GUM?
DAMN IT ALL.


HEY, JAKE. HOW'S TRICKS?


TELL ME, TOM... YOU BEEN HEARING ANYTHING ABOUT ANY ASSASSINS? ANY... HATCHET-MEN?
HATCHET-MEN?! THAT'S TONG WAR STUFF!
THE TONG WARS WENT OUT WITH SILENT PICTURES, JAKE.

I KNOW. I STOPPED 'EM, REMEMBER? BUT--

YOU KNOW THE FANCY GIRL?
NIX. BUT SHE'S TOO HIGH-CLASS TO BE WALKING JACKSON STREET. MUST BE A TOURIST.

PARDON ME, MISS, BUT I'M WITH THE POLICE. WE'VE BEEN HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE HERE LATELY, AND I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE OUT--
SO. YOU MUST BE THE ONE THEY CALL THE "TERROR OF CHINATOWN."
WELL...ONLY THE ONES WHO DON'T LIKE ME.
AND THE ONES WHO DO?
"SERGEANT JAKE." SOMETIMES "THE CAT." EVEN "MIN BOK"-- "OLD UNCLE."
I GUESS AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS ON THE SAME BEAT, YOU GET A LOT OF DIFFERENT REPUTATIONS.
ALL ENVIABLE, I'M SURE! NOW, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS TROUBLE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING?
JUST A RUMOR, MISS. BUT A LADY STILL SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ALONE.
OH, BUT I'M NEVER ALONE, INSPECTOR!
I'M MARGO LANE. A DEAR, DEAR FRIEND...
...OF LAMONT CRANSTON.

GABLE-HAR
CHINA SEAS
LATE SHOWS TONITE
EXIT
...IT WASN'T MY IDEA TO LEAVE THE BABY WITH YOUR SISTER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
EXIT
...TAUGHT ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF...
WHEN A WOMAN LOVES A MAN RIGHT DOWN TO HER FINGERTIPS, SHE CAN HATE HIM THE SAME WAY!
OH, BILLY... STOP... YES, YES, OH, STOP...

...OH, BILLY...
NOW CALL YOUR COPS!
IF YOU CAN DISH IT OUT, I CAN TAKE IT!
YOU FOOL.
EXIT
YOU HOT-HEADED, CRAZY LITTLE FOOL.
NO.

THE BOY IS MINE NOW!
To Be Continued!

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Our thanks to Rick Magyar for the nifty art job on issue #8. Thanks especially to Frank Springer, who jumped in at the last minute and filled in on our fill-in to save us in an emergency pinch. In any case, thanks to those talented guys our regular artist, Ed Barreto, got a much deserved break after the amazing job he did on the big four-part DOC SAVAGE crossover. As you can see, Ed is back greater than ever. Trust me on this: you're going to see what I think is Ed's best work to date on this three-part "Fireworks" storyline. Plus a terrific Gerry Jones story—set in Mr. Jones's home town of San Francisco—and Shiwan Khan too. What more could you ask for? ("Where's the wrap-up on the Helfer/Baker SHADOW?" is one possibility, I suppose. "I don't know" is still the answer.)

Thanks also go to our ace colorist and resident Shadow expert, Anthony Tollin, who provided the interesting and appropriate article on the real radio lives of the Shadow as accompaniment to our all-radio issue.

Now on to our regularly scheduled letter column, already in progress.

*****

Dear Brian,

With threads of fact and fiction woven into a dramatic tapestry of murder, revenge, political intrigue and mysticism, the first four issues of THE SHADOW STRIKES! have been excellent.

I was on the edge of my seat throughout issue #4 and, as Rasputin plummeted from the bridge, I honestly thought the case was over. How wrong I was. In a clever reversal of his role in real life, Rasputin was shown to be the puppet, with Anastasia pulling his strings. This left the Shadow with the unenviable obligation of having to kill someone he obviously cared about.

The final panel summed up the mood of the comic perfectly: justice had been done, but no one could take any satisfaction from what had happened.

A very moving and enjoyable comic. Thanks to all involved.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Simcox
Stourbridge, West Midlands
England

You're certainly welcome, Martin. Thank you for your enjoyment and insight. Stick around and we'll be glad to keep trying to move and entertain you.

*****

Dear Editor,

Sooooo. The denouement THE SHADOW STRIKES! #4 didn't have the fireworks I was expecting, with both of the villains dying without a sound and the molestation that never was, fizzling out.

But the conclusion was not without interest, as we see a Shadow as close to lovestruck as we ever will—but not *so* lovestruck that he doesn't gut-wrenchingly carry out his duty. And Anastasia turns out to be chief schemer, when I'm certain most readers did not figure she would be—simply because no fictional treatment of her has ever played her as anything less than a totally sympathetic character. She really *does* miss being regal, or something. Everybody else has always insisted she just felt lucky to be alive.

Be here next month, when Lamont Cranston meets Clark Savage and says—"You see, Doc, I've got this stabbing pain right here..."

Charles D. Brown
Brentwood, NY

The truly interesting thing about weaving fact and fiction—as we do here—is that the fiction can often be drawn from within the facts to present a convincing dramatic cloth. In the case of Anastasia, nothing but speculation exists, after all, and as such, we tried to provide an original and compelling speculation on her survival. The fact that our conclusions did not match the usual is good news to us. As you point out, that portrayal probably helped keep a real sense of mystery about the whole thing, which was also our goal.

*****

Dear Brian,

Come on, now, we all know that Rasputin did not die in issue #4. We don't even know where the knife that The Shadow threw hit him. How long will it be before he recovers and comes back for the Girasol? Gregor Rasputin is to The Shadow as the Joker is to Batman. He is a twisted, demented figure of evil that cannot and will not die.

In the next issue, the Shadow meets with Doc Savage. This will prove interesting.

Keep up the good work and keep true to the Shadow myth.

Good Luck,
Kent Johnson
Roseville, CA

P.S. Just out of curiosity, about how tall is the Shadow?

Actually, Kent, if you go back and check the end of the Shadow's battle with the Mad Monk, in issue four, you'll see that ol' Gregor makes two *splashes in the water after the Shadow's knife does its work. Leading me to suspect that Rasputin wound up sharing the fate of his earlier victims and was separated ... at the neck. Does this mean that Rasputin will not be a recurring villain à la the Joker? Yeah, probably—though I guess we could always connect the monk's head to a robot bod... ahh, forget* that, *it'd never work!*

And in answer to your P.S.'d question: The Shadow is probably in the six-foot even area, though I suppose if he put his mind to it, he could be any height he wanted ("...the power to cloud men's minds so that they see him ... taller"*?).*

*****

Brian,

Congratulations. THE SHADOW STRIKES! is phenomenal. This is what I read The Shadow for: blood and retribution. I realize that this is all fantasy, but it is great to see the guilty punished for their actions. I definitely feel that the Shadow belongs in the '30s. I also feel that Jones and Barreto give the book that "pulp" feel. Just great!

All I can say about The Shadow/Doc Savage team-up is: it's about time. I've been waiting for this since the DOC SAVAGE mini-series.

Thanks for your time,
Todd D. Atteberry
Salinas, CA

I hope the crossover was everything you were looking for, Todd. We certainly had a blast putting it all together. Thanks for all your enthusiasm. We'll try to keep you satisfied.

*****

Hey, Brian—

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #4

I really don't think Gerard, Eduardo and the rest of the book's creative team

stand a snowball's chance in Hell of topping this initial storyline, but I'm anxious to see them try.

Prove me wrong, guys, please.

See ya at Munden's.

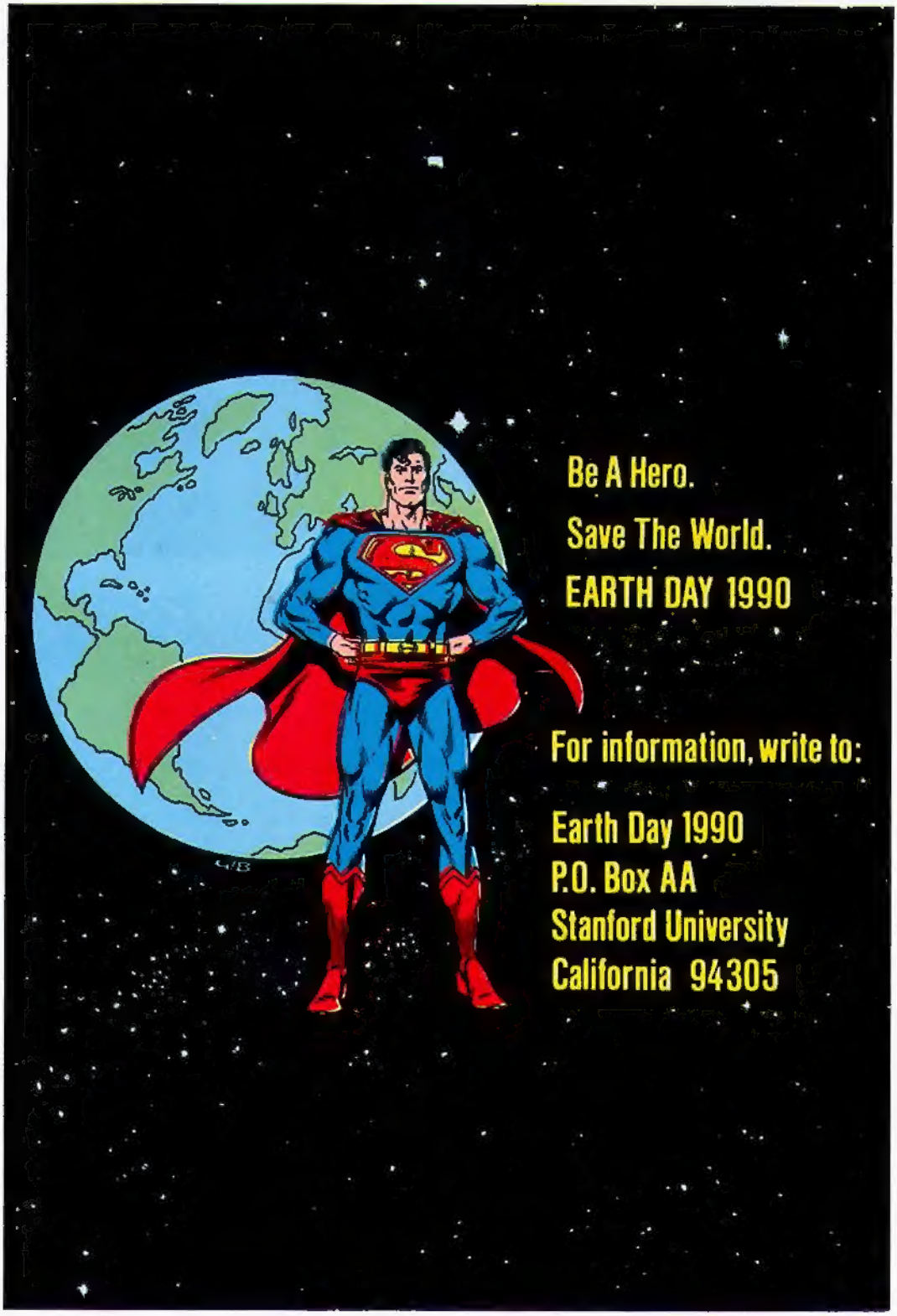
Uncle Elvis
Dawson Springs, KY

Well, Elv, we hope you've read these past several issues. Have we proven you wrong yet?

If not, stick around; we've got tons of great stuff coming up. Following the conclusion of this amazing three-part Shiwan Khan storyline, we've got a story (in #11) featuring never-before-revealed facts from the past of the lovely Margo Lane that'll knock your slouch hats off. After that, we start a two-parter with the Shadow taking on the Chicago mob (it was only fair, as noted elsewhere: Gerry is using San Francisco this time, so now he has to set one in my toddlin' home town). And then it's back to New York with a story spotlighting jazz, voodoo, and murder in Harlem. The preceding preview was brought to you courtesy of the leftover space at the bottom of the letter column.

* * * * *

See you next issue, as Shiwan Khan stoops to conquer, with the world as his target. Can the Dark Avenger, Margo, Harry, Jake, and young Russell do anything to stop the nefarious mastermind? Tune in and find out.

'Til then, don't miss it, or we'll miss you. 'Bye for now.

—Brian